

What is claimed is:

1. An adjustable assembly for a cargo box cover for use on a cargo box having upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box, the cargo box cover having a left and right rail connected to said left and right side wall, an elongate tensioning rail having a left and right end said tensioning rail extending from said left rail to said right rail and further having a cover fixedly attached along said tensioning rail, said adjustable assembly comprising:

- a left and right block means connected to said left and right rail;
- a left and right attachment block means connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail; and
- an adjustable connection means for connecting said tensioning rail to said left and right rail.

2. An adjustable assembly as in claim 1 wherein each of said left and right block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a front and rear block section connected to a base block section so as to define a space between said front and rear block section, said front and rear block sections further defining a hole in an aligned orientation so as to pass through said front and rear block section across said space between said front and rear block sections.

3. An adjustable assembly as in claim 2 wherein each of said left and right attachment block means comprises an attachment block section having an elongate threaded tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block section and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning said space between said front and rear block section.

4. An adjustable assembly as in claim 3 further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block section defining an inner threaded hole for receiving said threaded tension screw.

5. An adjustable assembly as in claim 4 further comprising a graduated measuring scale on said left and right rail so as to accurately adjust said left and right side of said tensioning rail in respect to said left and right rail.

6. An adjustable assembly as in claim 5 wherein said hole defined by said front and rear block sections is of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

7. An adjustable assembly as in claim 1 wherein said left and right block means is fixedly connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail and said left and right attachment block means is fixedly connected to said left and right rail.

8. An adjustable cover for a cargo box that comprises upwardly extending left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall said walls defining the boundaries of the cargo box, the adjustable cover assembly comprising:

a left and right rail connected to said left and right side wall;

an elongate tensioning rail having a left and right end said tensioning rail extending from said left rail to said right rail;

a left and right block means connected to said left and right rail;

a left and right attachment block means connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail; and

an adjustable connection means for connecting said tensioning rail to said left and right rail.

9. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 8 wherein each of said left and right block means connected to said left and right rail comprises a front and rear block section connected to a base block section so as to define a space between said front and rear block section, said front and rear block sections further defining a hole in an aligned orientation so as to pass through said front and rear block section across said space between said front and rear block sections.

10. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 9 wherein each of said left and right attachment block means comprises an attachment block section having an elongate threaded tension screw fixedly attached to said attachment block section and extending through said front and rear block sections spanning said space between said front and rear block section.

11. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 10 further comprising a screw adjustment knob between said front and rear block section defining an inner threaded hole for receiving said threaded tension screw.

12. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 11 further comprising a graduated measuring scale on said left and right rail so as to accurately adjust said left and right side of said tensioning rail in respect to said left and right rail.

13. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 12 wherein said hole defined by said front and rear block sections is of a larger diameter than said threaded tension screw.

14. An adjustable cover for a cargo box as in claim 8 wherein said left and right block means is fixedly connected to said left and right end of said tensioning rail, and said left and right attachment block means is fixedly connected to said left and right rail.

15. (New) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a pickup truck cargo box, the cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly comprising:

5 left and right side rails connected to said left and right side walls, respectively;

20 an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail;

25 left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; and

30 left and right tensioning rail attachment members engaged with said tensioning rail; wherein each of said left and right side rail

35 attachment bracket mechanisms include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and

40 arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw members as said screw member is adjustably manipulated to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket

45 mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover.

16. (New) The adjustable  
assembly of claim 15, wherein the  
tensioning rail includes a tensioning  
rail attachment chamber and each  
of said left and right tensioning rail  
attachment members is engaged  
within the tensioning rail attachment  
chamber.

17. (New) The adjustable  
assembly of claim 16, wherein each  
of said left and right tensioning rail  
attachment members extends below  
the side rail with which it is engaged  
such that the tensioning rail is  
restrained from being lifted away  
from the respective side rails when  
the attachment members are  
engaged with the respective side  
rails.

18. (New) The adjustable  
assembly of claim 15, wherein each  
of the pair of threaded screw  
members is engaged in coaxially  
aligned, reciprocally threaded  
openings in each of the respective  
side rail attachment bracket  
mechanisms.

19. (New) An adjustable cover  
assembly for a cargo box, the cargo  
box including upwardly extending  
left and right side walls, a front wall  
and a rear end gate wall, the  
adjustable cover assembly  
comprising:

left and right side rails connected to  
said left and right side walls,  
respectively;

a tonneau cover having forward and  
rearward ends;

an elongate tensioning rail having  
left and right ends, said elongate  
tensioning rail extending from said  
left side rail to said right side rail, the  
forward end of the tonneau cover  
being secured to the elongate  
tensioning rail;

left and right side rail attachment  
bracket mechanisms connected with  
said left and right side rails,  
respectively; and

left and right tensioning rail  
attachment members engaged with  
said tensioning rail; wherein each of  
said left and right side rail  
attachment bracket mechanisms  
include a threaded screw member,  
and each of the threaded screw  
members are positioned and  
arranged such that a force can be  
placed on the elongate tensioning  
rail by each of the threaded screw  
members as said screw member is  
adjustably manipulated to drive the  
tensioning rail away from the  
respective attachment bracket,  
thereby placing greater tension on  
the tonneau cover.

20. (New) The adjustable  
assembly of claim 19, wherein the  
tensioning rail includes a tensioning  
rail attachment chamber and each  
of said left and right tensioning rail  
attachment members is engaged  
within the tensioning rail attachment  
chamber.

21. (New) The adjustable  
assembly of claim 20, wherein each  
of said left and right tensioning rail  
attachment members extends below  
the side rail with which it is engaged  
such that the tensioning rail is

restrained from being lifted away  
from the respective side rails when  
the attachment members are  
engaged with the respective side  
rails.

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22. (New) The adjustable  
assembly of claim 19, wherein each  
of the pair of threaded screw  
members is engaged in coaxially  
aligned, reciprocally threaded  
openings in each of the respective  
side rail attachment bracket  
mechanisms.

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23. (New) An apparatus for  
varying the position of an end rail of  
a tonneau cover attachment frame  
used to secure a tonneau cover to a  
pickup truck cargo box, the  
attachment frame including at least  
one end rail and opposing left and  
right side rails, the tonneau cover  
being secured to the end rail, the  
apparatus comprising:

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a first adjustment block  
mechanism, the first adjustment  
block mechanism being attached to  
one of said side rails; and

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a first tensioning screw, the  
first tensioning screw operatively  
connected to the first adjustment  
block mechanism and movable with  
respect thereto, with the first  
tensioning screw configured and  
arranged to operatively contact the  
end rail; wherein movement of the  
first tensioning screw with respect to  
the first adjustment block  
mechanism, in a direction toward  
the end rail, varies the position of  
the end rail with respect to the  
respective side rail.

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24. (New) The apparatus of claim  
23, wherein the first tensioning

screw is movable in a direction generally parallel to the side rail and wherein the end rail is slidingly engaged with the opposing left and right side rails and movable with respect thereto in a generally orthogonal, constrained manner.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a second adjustment block mechanism, the adjustment block mechanism being attached to the other of said left and right side rails, and a second tensioning screw, the second tensioning screw operatively connected to the second adjustment block mechanism and movable with respect thereto, with the second tensioning screw configured and arranged to operatively contact the end rail; wherein movement of the second tensioning screw with respect to the second adjustment block mechanism, in a direction toward the end rail, varies the position of the end rail with respect to the other side rail.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the second tensioning screw is movable in a direction generally parallel to the side rail.

27. (New) An apparatus for shifting the position of a slideable end rail of a tonneau cover attachment frame that includes at least one end rail and parallel left and right side rails, the tonneau cover being attached to the end rail, wherein the end rail is slidingly connected to the parallel left and right side rails and movable with respect thereto in a generally

orthogonal, constrained manner, the apparatus comprising:

5        a first adjustment block mechanism, the first adjustment block mounted to the left side rail and configured to operably contact the end rail and, upon manipulation thereof, shift the position of the end rail with respect to the left side rail in a direction away from the first adjustment block mechanism; and,

15        a second adjustment block mechanism, the second adjustment block mounted to the right side rail and configured to operably contact the end rail and, upon manipulation thereof, shift the position of the end rail with respect to the right side rail in a direction away from the second adjustment block mechanism.

28.        (New) A shifting apparatus which operatively contacts an end rail of a tonneau cover frame for attaching a tonneau cover to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the tonneau cover frame having parallel left and right side rails and an end rail, the tonneau cover being attached to the end rail, the apparatus comprising:

35        a first adjustment block mechanism, the first adjustment block attachably mounted to the left side rail and configured to operably contact the end rail and, upon manipulation thereof, shift the position of the end rail with respect to the left side rail; and,

45        a second adjustment block mechanism, the second adjustment block attachably mounted to the

right side rail and configured to operably contact the end rail and, upon manipulation thereof, shift the position of the end rail with respect to the right side rail wherein the end rail is slidably engaged with the parallel left and right side rails and movable with respect thereto in a constrained manner.

29. (New) The shifting apparatus of Claim 28, wherein each of the first and second adjustment block mechanisms include a threaded screw members that is positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the end rail by each of the threaded screw members as said screw member is adjustably manipulated to drive the end rail away from the respective adjustment block mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover.

30. (New) An adjustable assembly for a tonneau cover used to cover a pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box, the adjustable assembly comprising:

left and right side rails connected to said left and right walls, respectively;

an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said elongate tensioning rail extending from said

left side rail to said right side rail, the tonneau cover being attached to the elongate tensioning rail;

- 5    left and right side rail attachment block mechanisms connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; and
- 10   left and right tensioning rail attachment blocks engaged with said left and right ends of said elongate tensioning rail,  
respectively, and each slidably engaging the respective side rail proximate the respective ends of the elongate tensioning rail such that the elongate tensioning rail is slidably engaged with the opposing
- 15   left and right side rails and movable with respect thereto in a generally orthogonal, constrained manner ; wherein the left and right side rail attachment block mechanisms
- 20   include left and right screw members adjustably contacting said tensioning rail.
- 25   31.   (New) A method of maintaining an appropriate tension on a tonneau cover secured to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending
- 30   walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least
- 35   partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box; the method comprising:
- 40   \_\_\_\_\_
- 45   attaching a tonneau cover and a tonneau cover attachment frame having a tonneau cover

adjustment mechanism to the  
pickup truck, the tonneau cover  
attachment frame including left and  
right side rails which are connected  
5 to said left and right side walls,  
respectively; an elongate tensioning  
rail having left and right ends, said  
tensioning rail extending from the  
left side rail to the right side rail, the  
10 tonneau cover attached to the  
tensioning rail; left and right side rail  
attachment bracket mechanisms  
connected to said left and right side  
rails, respectively; the elongate  
15 tensioning rail including left and right  
tensioning rail attachment members  
engaged with said tensioning rail;  
wherein each of said left and right  
side rail attachment bracket  
20 mechanisms include a threaded  
screw member, and each of the  
threaded screw members are  
positioned and arranged such that a  
force can be placed on the elongate  
25 tensioning rail by each of the  
threaded screw members as each  
said screw member is adjustably  
manipulated to drive the tensioning  
rail away from the respective  
30 attachment bracket mechanism,  
thereby placing greater tension on  
the tonneau cover; and

manipulating the respective  
35 attachment bracket mechanisms so  
as to drive the tensioning rail away  
from the respective attachment  
bracket mechanism, thereby placing  
greater tension on the tonneau  
40 cover following the step of attaching,  
at such time as it is desireable to  
place a greater tension on the  
tonneau cover.

45 32. (New) A method of  
maintaining an appropriate tension

on a tonneau cover secured to a cargo box of a pickup truck, the pickup truck cargo box having a plurality of upwardly extending walls, said plurality of upwardly extending walls including left and right side walls, a front wall and a rear end gate wall, said plurality of upwardly extending walls at least partially defining an interior compartment of the cargo box; the method comprising:

attaching a tonneau cover and a tonneau cover attachment frame having a tonneau cover adjustment mechanism to the pickup truck, the tonneau cover attachment frame including left and right side rails which are connected to said left and right side walls, respectively; an elongate tensioning rail having left and right ends, said tensioning rail extending from the left side rail to the right side rail, the tonneau cover attached to the tensioning rail; left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms connected to said left and right side rails, respectively; the elongate tensioning rail including left and right tensioning rail attachment members engaged with said tensioning rail and positioned and arranged to sliding secure the elongate tensioning rail to the respective side rails; wherein each of said left and right side rail attachment bracket mechanisms include a threaded screw member, and each of the threaded screw members are positioned and arranged such that a force can be placed on the elongate tensioning rail by each of the threaded screw members as each said screw member is adjustably

manipulated to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover; and

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manipulating the respective attachment bracket mechanisms so as to drive the tensioning rail away from the respective attachment bracket mechanism, thereby placing greater tension on the tonneau cover following the step of attaching, at such time as it is desireable to place a greater tension on the tonneau cover.

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